

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed September 29, 2005. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and pending claims are respectfully requested.

I. Double Patenting Rejections

A. Statutory Double Patenting under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-14 of U.S. Patent No. 6,676,668 (“the ‘668 patent”). Through this response, Applicant has canceled claims 1-14. Therefore, Applicant submits that the rejection of these claims is moot, and respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

B. Obviousness-type Double Patenting

Claims 15 and 16 have been rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable in view of claims 15 and 16 of the ‘668 patent. Although Applicant does not concur that claims 15 and 16 are unpatentable in view of claims 15 and 16 of the ‘668 patent, to expedite issuance of a patent Applicant has submitted a terminal disclaimer with this response that disclaims any portion of term for a patent issuing from the present application that will extend beyond the term of the ‘688 patent. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

II. Canceled Claims

Claims 1-14 have been canceled from the application without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to present these canceled claims, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequently.

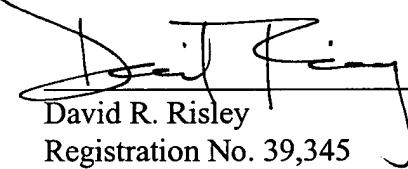
III. New Claims

Claims 17-32 have been added into the application through this Response. Applicant respectfully submits that these new claims describe an invention novel and unobvious in view of the prior art of record and, therefore, respectfully requests that these claims be held to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on

2-28-04
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